

**BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE  
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

**F(21)15**

**AND**

**SULEMAN PATEL (D-12116)**

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**NOTICE OF INQUIRY  
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

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Take notice that an inquiry will be conducted in the above matter by the Fitness to Practise Committee of the General Optical Council.

A substantive hearing will be proceeding:

**Remotely**

The substantive hearing will resume at **09:30hrs** on **17 August 2023** by way of video conference or telephone conference facilities and continue on the following dates (if required):

- **18, 21-22 and 24-25 August 2023**

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to practise of **Mr Suleman Patel** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

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Vineeta Desai  
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council

28 April 2023

### **The Allegation (as amended)**

*The Council alleges that you, Suleman Patel, a registered dispensing Optician:*

- 1. Between 2014 and 2017 knowingly allowed [Redacted] Ltd to supply [Redacted] Visionplus Limited [Redacted] with goods in quantities above what was reasonably required by [Redacted]; and/or*
- 2. Between 2014 and 2017 knowingly allowed [Redacted] Ltd to supply [Redacted] Visionplus Limited [Redacted] with goods at falsely and/or grossly inflated prices amounting to approximately £32,000; and/or*
- 3. Between 2014 and 2017 knowingly misrepresented personal expenditure as legitimate business expenditure of [Redacted] Visionplus Limited [Redacted] in relation to items ordered from [Redacted] Ltd, namely:
  - a. Givenchy purse/bag; and/or*
  - b. Red Letter Day Vouchers amounting to nearly £9,000; and/or*
  - c. Sky Club vouchers amounting to nearly £4,000.**
- 4. Between 2014 and 2017 knowingly misappropriated property belonging to [Redacted] Visionplus Limited [Redacted] for your own personal use, in relation to items ordered from [Redacted] Ltd, namely:
  - a. A 'Givenchy' purse/bag; and/or*
  - b. Red Letter Day Vouchers; and/or*
  - c. Sky Club vouchers.**
- 5. Between 2014 and 2017 authorised false and/or grossly inflated invoices from Bentham Ltd to be paid by [Redacted] Visionplus Limited ([Redacted]) in order to personally receive Sky Club and/or Red Letter Day vouchers and/or other products from [Redacted] Ltd.*
- 6. In relation to the matters set out above at 1,2,3a,3b,3c,4a,4b,4c, and/or 5, you were dishonest in that you knew when you ordered the items from '[Redacted] Ltd' that they were for the personal use and/or personal gain of you and/or others and not for company use.*

*And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to practise is impaired by reason of misconduct.*

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**Committee Members:** James Kellock (Chair)  
Amanda Webster (Lay)  
Diane Roskilly (Lay)  
Philip Cross (Dispensing Optician)  
Ian Taylor (Dispensing Optician)

**Legal Adviser:** David Mason

**Hearings Officer:** TBC

**Transcribers:** Marten Walsh Cherer Limited

If you require further information relating to this hearing, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at [hearings@optical.org](mailto:hearings@optical.org).